

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 have been rejected.

Claims 6 and 12-14 have been objected to.

Claim 1, 5, 6 and 12 have been amended.

Reconsideration of Claims 1-14, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. **AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The Applicant has amended the drawings by substituting FIGURE 3 and FIGURE 4 of the provisional patent application (U. S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/270,385 filed on February 21, 2001) in place of FIGURE 3 and FIGURE 4 of the present non-provisional patent application. This substitution was made because the text of the specification of the present non-provisional patent application refers to FIGURE 3 and to FIGURE 4 of the provisional patent application. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the proposed drawing substitution be made.

II. **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

In Paragraph 1 on Page 2 of the December 1, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 6 and Claims 12-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim

and any intervening claims. Claim 1, the base claim, and Claims 5, 6 and 12 have been amended so that Claim 6 and Claims 12-14 are now in condition for allowance.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention. Claim 6 did not name a claim from which it was dependent. In response to this rejection, the Applicant has amended Claim 6 to make Claim 6 dependent upon Claim 5. The amendment now provides sufficient antecedent basis for Claim 6. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 112 rejection of Claim 6.

IV. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 and Claims 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,600,914 to *Uhlik et al.* (hereafter "*Uhlik*"). In response, the Applicant has amended Claim 1, the base claim, and Claims 5, 6 and 12. The Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims now recite the allowable subject matter. The Applicant also respectfully submits that dependent Claims 2-14 all also now recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicant now respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider Claims 1-14, as amended, and pass them to issuance.

V. SUMMARY

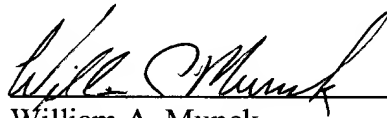
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *wmunck@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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